

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney Mr. Neff N on 07/09/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims were amended as follows to better define over the prior art of record.

Claim 1: (Currently twice Amended)

A method of packaging a PVA sponge for use in scrubbing semiconductor wafers, said sponge having particulate, metal ion and anionic counts at or below the values specified for a clean room, said method comprising:

- (a) placing said sponge in a flexible plastic bag;
- (b) said sponge containing a quantity of de-ionized water with around 0.05% to around 0.1% by volume of hydrogen peroxide; and
- (c) sealing said bag.

Claim 2: (Cancelled)

Claim 3: (Previously Amended)

A method as in Claim 1 in which said quantity of de-ionized water with hydrogen peroxide is between an amount sufficient to wet said sponge and an amount necessary to saturate said sponge.

Claim 4: (Previously Amended)

A method as in Claim 1 in which the volume of hydrogen peroxide is around 0.1%.

Claim 5: (Currently twice Amended)

A method of packaging a PVA sponge brush, said sponge brush having particulate, metal ion and anionic counts at or below the values specified for a clean room, said method comprising placing said cleaning article in a plastic bag, said sponge brush containing a quantity of de-ionized water, said water containing hydrogen peroxide in an amount effective to kill and retard the growth of bacteria in said cleaning article but less than an amount sufficient to develop significant quantities of metallic ions in said container, and sealing said container, in which said amount of hydrogen peroxide is about 0.05% to around 0.1 by volume.

Claim 6: (Cancelled)

Claim 7: (Cancelled)

Claim 8: (Cancelled)

Claim 9: (Previously Amended)

A packaged PVA sponge for use in clean rooms, said cleaning article having particulate, metal ion and anionic counts at or below the values specified for a clean room, said package comprising a sealed flexible plastic bag, said sponge being positioned in said bag, and containing a quantity of de-ionized water, said de-ionized water containing hydrogen peroxide in a concentration effective to kill and retard the growth of bacteria in said sponge, said amount being low enough to substantially

ensure decomposition of said hydrogen peroxide in a relatively short period of time after the container is sealed and being between 0.05% and 0.1% by volume.

Claim 10: (Cancelled)

Claim 11: (Cancelled)

Claim 12: (Previously Amended)

A cleaning article as in Claim 9 in which said cleaning article is a PVA sponge for scrubbing semiconductor wafer surfaces, and said concentration of hydrogen peroxide is around 0.1 percent by volume.

Claim 13: (Cancelled)

Claim 14: (Cancelled)

Conclusion

2. The amendments to the claims filed 12/09/08 in combination with the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 10/09/07 is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onodera (6,012,576) in view of Paley et al. (5,988,371).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JILA M. MOHANDESI whose telephone number is (571)272-4558. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey YU can be reached on 571-272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JILA M MOHANDESI/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3728

JMM
07/09/09